Fire at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

*216. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that probe has been conducted into the cause of fire that had occurred on 5th November, 2002 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata;

(b) if so, what has been found to have caused the fire;

(c) whether it is a fact that GRSE's ship design centre, computer network and other sensitive departments have been devastated by the fire; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure foolproof security, particularly of establishments engaged in research, design and other sensitive works, related to defence projects, against fire and other devastations and or sabotage, in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A fire occurred on 5th November, 2002 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The fire destroyed the Central Design Office, Central Planning Department, Technical Library and Record Room.

2. The Report of the Board of Enquiry submitted on 23rd November, 2002 revealed that the fire was caused by a short circuit in the electrical system of the Central Design Office. This was also confirmed by the report from the Forensic Science Laboratory, Government of West Bengal.

3. In terms of the recommendations of the Board of Enquiry, modern fire alarm system and fire preventive system are under installation in the

newly created Central Design Office/Central Planning Department Complex. Fire Audit on the proposed system is being conducted through experts to assess the improvement required in the existing system. The Company has already in place proper security arrangements to prevent sabotage. Government have also issued directions to observe existing precautionary measures scrupulously, to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I am satisfied with the answer.

Redressal of grievances

*217. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of public grievances being handled by the Department are, at present, not being monitored and followed up as a result of which hardly any grievances are redressed;

(b) the number of cases handled by the Department during the last five years, year-wise and the number thereof during each year where appropriate result was achieved;

(c) the number of cases undecided by the respective Departments/ agencies(i) for over six months, (ii) for over one year, and (iii) for over two years; and

(d) action initiated by the Department against those responsible for delay in redressing the grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) No, Sir. A detailed Statement indicating the number of cases handled by the Department during the last 5 years and the number thereof during each year where appropriate results were achieved is given at Statement I (*See* below) The data indicating the number of cases undecided by the respective Department/agencies (i) for over six months